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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,905	11/24/2003	Johannes Petrus Van Der Linden	TS-1171 (US)	5296
23632	7590	05/24/2005	EXAMINER	
SHELL OIL COMPANY			SOLOLA, TAOFIQ A	
P O BOX 2463			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
HOUSTON, TX 772522463			1626	

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/720,905	LINDEN ET AL.
	Examiner Taofiq A. Solola	Art Unit 1626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. The Markush group set forth in the claims includes both independent and distinct inventions, and patentably distinct compounds (or species) within each invention. However, this application discloses and claims a plurality of patentably distinct inventions far too numerous to list individually. Moreover, each of these inventions contains a plurality of patentably distinct compounds, also far too numerous to list individually. For these reasons provided below, restriction to one of the following Groups is required under 35 U.S.C. 121, wherein an Group is a set of patentably distinct inventions of a broad statutory category (e.g. Compounds, Methods of Use, Methods of Making, etc.):

I. Claims 1-14, drawn to a process of making catalyst, classified in several heterocyclic classes (502, 544, 544, 548, 546) and non-heterocyclic classes (558, 562, etc.), numerous subclasses.

II. Claims 15-20, drawn to a process of making alkylene oxide, classified in several heterocyclic classes (549, 544, 544, 548, 546) and non-heterocyclic classes (558, 562, etc.), numerous subclasses.

In accordance with the decisions in *In re Harnisch*, 631 F.2d 716, 206 USPQ 300 (CCPA 1980); and *Ex parte Hozumi*, 3 USPQ2d 1059 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1984), restriction of a Markush group is proper where the compounds within the group either (1) do not share a common utility, or (2) do not share a substantial structural feature disclosed as being essential to that utility. In addition, a Markush group may encompass a plurality of independent and distinct inventions where two or more members are so unrelated and diverse that a prior art reference anticipating the claim with respect to one of the members would not render the other member(s) obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103.

Applicant is reminded that upon cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventors must be amended in compliance with 37C.F.R. 1.48(b) if one of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37CFR 1.17(i).

If desired upon election of a single compound, applicants can review the claims and disclosure to determine the scope of the invention and can **set forth** a group of compounds, which are so similar within the same inventive concept and reduction to practice. Markush claims must be provided with support in the disclosure for each member of the Markush group. See MPEP 608.01(p). Applicant should exercise caution in making a selection of a single member for each substituent group on the base molecule to be consistent with the written description.

Rationale Establishing Patentable Distinctiveness Within Each Group

Each Invention Set listed above is directed to or involves the use or making of compounds which are recognized in the art as being distinct from one another because of their diverse chemical structure, their different chemical properties, modes of action, different effects and reactive conditions (MPEP 806.04, MPEP 808.01). Additionally, the level of skill in the art is not such that one invention would be obvious over either of the other inventions, i.e. they are patentable over each other. Chemical structures, which are similar are presumed to function similarly, whereas chemical structures that are not similar are not presumed to function similarly. The presumption even for similar chemical structures though is not irrebuttable, but may be overcome by scientific reasoning or evidence showing that the structure of the prior art would not have been expected to function as the structure of the claimed invention. Note that in accordance with the holdings of Application of Papesch, 50 CCPA 1084, 315 F.2d 381, 137 USPQ 43 (CCPA 1963) and In re Lalu, 223 USPQ 1257 (Fed. Cir. 1984), chemical structures are patentably distinct where the structures are either not structurally similar, or the prior art fails to suggest a function of a claimed compound would have been expected from a similar structure.

The above Groups represent general areas wherein the inventions are independent and distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

1. Inventions of groups I and II are not related to each other. They are different processes of making different compounds. Therefore, the inventions are independent and distinct, there is no patentable co-action among the various groups, and a reference anticipating one member will not render another obvious.

In addition, because of the plethora of classes and subclasses in each of the Groups, a serious burden is imposed on the examiner to perform a complete search of the defined areas. Therefore, because of the reasons given above, the restriction set forth is proper and not to restrict would impose a serious burden in the examination of this application.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

During a telephone conversation with Jennifer Adamson on 5/10/05 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1-14. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 15-20 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 1, 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The specification lacks adequate support for the claims. Claim 1 recites "silicon containing carrier" and "titanium halide". However, the specification fails to disclose that any and/or all known "silicon containing carrier" and "titanium halide" are applicable in the instant process. Applicant cannot claim all known "silicon containing carrier" and "titanium halide". Applicant must claim only "silicon containing carrier" and "titanium halide" that embody applicant's invention. Applicant must show possession of the invention by describing it with all the claimed limitations. *Lookwood v. American Airlines Inc.* 107 F.3d 1565, 1572, 41 USPQ2d 1961, 1966 (Fed Cir. 1997). By adding specific "silicon containing carrier" and "titanium halide" having support in the specification to claim 1 the rejection would be overcome.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Joustra et al.,

EP 0 345 856 B1.

Joustra et al., disclose a process for making a catalyst comprising impregnating a silica-containing carrier with gaseous titanium tetrachloride (titanium halide). The product is calcined followed by hydrolysis. Optionally, the product is contacted with hexamethyldisilazane as a silyating agent. See page 3, line 33 to page 4, line 50. The silica-containing carrier is silica gel, and may be in the form of particles having specific areas of 50 to 400 m²/g, page 6, lines 14-27. In preferred embodiment the carrier is dried before impregnation. See example, page 6, line 50 to page 7, line 20.

Applicant claims a silica-containing carrier having at most 1200 ppm of sodium in claims 4 and 9. This implies the carrier may have from 0 to 1200 ppm of sodium.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Joustra et al., EP 0 345 856 B1, in view of Han et al., US 6,114,552.

Applicant claims a process of making a catalyst comprising impregnating a silica-containing carrier with gaseous titanium tetrachloride (titanium halide). The product is calcined followed by hydrolysis. Optionally, the product is contacted with hexamethyldisilazane as a silyating agent. The silica-containing carrier comprises at most 1200 ppm of sodium.

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art (MPEP 2141.01)

Joustra et al., disclose a process for making a catalyst comprising impregnating a silica-containing carrier with gaseous titanium tetrachloride (titanium halide). The product is calcined

followed by hydrolysis. Optionally, the product is contacted with hexamethyldisilazane as a silyating agent. See page 3, line 33 to page 4, line 50.

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims (MPEP 32141.02)

The difference between the instant invention and that of Joustra et al., is that applicant claims the silica-containing carrier comprises at most 1200 ppm of sodium while Joustra et al., do not teach the presence of sodium.

Finding of prima facie obviousness---rational and motivation (MPEP 32142.2413)

However, Han et al., teach a similar process of making the instant catalyst, wherein the catalyst optionally comprises between 0.01 to 15 % of sodium as a promoter. Column 6, lines 25-35. Adding at most 1200 ppm of sodium to the carrier is an obvious modification available to the special preference of an artisan. It is merely an optimization of a variable, which is not patentable absent unexpected result due to the variable, which is different in kind and not merely in degree from that of the prior art. *In re Aller*, 22 F.2d 454,105 USPG 233 (CCPA, 1955). Therefore, the instant invention is prima facie obvious from the teachings of Joustra et al., and Han et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have known to use sodium in the process of Joustra et al., at the time this invention was made. The motivation is from the teaching of Han et al., that sodium is useful as a promoter in the catalyst.

Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Taofiq A. Solola, PhD, JD, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0709.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Joseph McKane, can be reached on (571) 272-0699. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.



**TAOFIQ SOLOLA
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Group 1626

May 17, 2005